

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl'n No.	: 10/665,722	Confirmation No.	: 4650
Filing Date	: 09/19/2003		
First Named Inventor	: Victor Morozov		
Atty. Docket No.	: GMU-08-013U		
Art Unit	: 1641		
Examiner	: Jung, Unsu		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This response is a reply to the Restriction Requirement dated November 9, 2009, having a shortened statutory period that expires on December 9, 2009.

With respect to **Election/Restrictions**, Applicants hereby elect with traverse: "1", which is drawn to "Plasma" of claims 21-23, 33-41 and 43.

The claims encompassing the elected species are claims 21-23, 33-41 and 43. Claim 41 is dependent on claim 33, which is dependent on Independent Claim 21. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, on Independent Claim 21.

Applicants respectfully submit "[i]f the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions." See MPEP § 803. Applicants respectfully further submit "...restriction is only proper when there would be a serious burden if the restriction were not required, as evidenced by separate classification, status or field of search." See MPEP § 806.05(d) and § 808.02.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject claims involve related subject matter, directed to methods of activating a surface layer. See e.g., Specification, para. [0242]-[0254]. In one embodiment of the subject claims, a plasma-treated surface can be made hydrophobic. See e.g., Specification, para. [0250]. Because of this overlapping subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the species may not require a different field of search, and/or that the same classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or the same search query may be employed to limit any nominal burden. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the restriction.

Respectfully submitted,

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